

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-17 are all the claims pending in the application as claims 15-17 are hereby added. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that the Examiner has not indicated acknowledgement of the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 15, 2003. Further, Applicant notes that the Image File Wrapper for the present application, as viewable on the USPTO PAIR system, does not include the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 15, 2003. Accordingly, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicant attaches hereto a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 15, 2003, including the Modified SB/08 form and the date and time-stamped filing receipt confirming the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement on October 15, 2003.¹

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ivan et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,877,501; hereinafter "Ivan"). Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ivan. Applicant respectfully traverses these claim rejections.

Independent claim 1 recites, in part:

a control means for controlling the operations of the solid state radiation detector;

a cassette main body having a case for housing the solid state radiation detector and the control means; and

¹ The references listed on the Modified SB/08 are U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,268,614 and 6,344,652, and thus, the actual patent publications are not included in the enclosed attachments.

a portable operating portion for outputting command signals to the control means for operating the solid state radiation detector, formed as a separate unit from the cassette main body.

Thus, claim 1, requires, *inter alia*, a control means, housed within the case of the cassette main body, which controls the operations of the solid state radiation detector, and a portable operating portion which outputs command signals to the control means for operating the solid state radiation detector.

Ivan, by contrast, seems to disclose a detector assembly for X-ray image acquisition which can be connected to a base station (44),² which is, in turn, connected to a computer (50).³ Image data is acquired by the detector assembly⁴ and then downloaded to the computer (50) for further processing.⁵

The Examiner asserts that the claimed portable operating portion, noted above, corresponds to the image processing computer (50) of Ivan. However, as noted above, the image processing computer (50) only receives the downloaded image data from the base station (44). That is, the image processing computer (50) of Ivan does not output command signals to a control means for operating the solid state radiation detector, formed as a separate unit from the cassette main body, as set forth by claim 1. This is evident in both FIG. 2 of Ivan and from the disclosure itself:

² See Ivan, Abstract.

³ See Ivan, col. 4, lines 33-35.

⁴ See Ivan, col. 4, lines 46-48.

⁵ See Ivan, col. 4, lines 51-53.

In operation, the detector assembly 1 is connected with the base station 44 to charge the batteries 36. To take an image, the detector assembly is uncoupled from the base station 44 and placed in a desired position.... The detector assembly power is turned on, and the object being imaged and the image detector are exposed to a source of x-radiation. The detector array 10 is scanned and a digital representation of the image is stored in the image memory 34. The detector assembly 1 is then returned to the base station. The image data is downloaded for further processing by the computer 50, and the batteries are recharged.⁶

Assuming, *arguendo*, the image processing computer (50) in Ivan corresponds to the claimed “portable operating portion,” Applicant submits that Ivan clearly fails to teach or suggest a portable operating portion which outputs command signals to a control means for operating the solid state radiation detector. Thus, Ivan fails to teach or suggest all of the required features of claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over the newly cited Ivan reference, for at least these reasons. Further, Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-14 are also patentable over Ivan, at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 1.

Finally, Applicant submits that new claims 15-17 are patentable for reasons analogous to those stated above regarding independent claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

⁶ See Ivan, col. 4, lines 40-53.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application No. 10/684,705

Docket No. Q77937

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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